

Chapter 8 Heterosexual Men and Women

Chapter 8 provides a profile of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among heterosexual men and women in Massachusetts based on several different data sources. HIV and AIDS case data are presented to provide a demographic description of people living with HIV/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex. Seroprevalence data describe trends in HIV and syphilis seropositivity among heterosexual men and women in a selected clinic population. Lastly, HIV Counseling and Testing data are presented to provide information about people who were tested for HIV at state funded sites that reported heterosexual sex as a risk behavior.

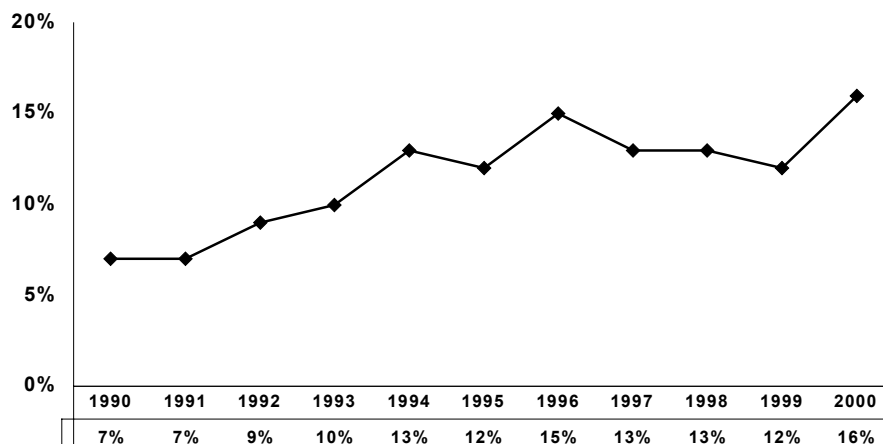
Currently, of 1,615 people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts who were exposed through heterosexual sex, nearly 75% are women. Across race/ethnicity, Blacks and Hispanics account for the largest proportions of people living HIV/AIDS exposed through heterosexual sex at 35% and 37%, respectively. Among people living with HIV/AIDS whose reported exposure category is presumed heterosexual (i.e. they report heterosexual sex as their only risk and their heterosexual partner's risk is unknown), the distribution across gender is almost equal (51% male, 49% female). Blacks are the predominant racial/ethnic group among people living with HIV/AIDS whose reported exposure category is presumed heterosexual sex, accounting for over 50% all of cases.

I. Massachusetts HIV/AIDS Prevalence – HIV and AIDS Case Data

People living with HIV/AIDS whose primary risk of exposure was heterosexual sex, as compared to all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in the state:

- Heterosexual sex is the reported mode of exposure for 12% of people living with HIV infection, 12% of people living with AIDS, and 13% of people living with HIV/AIDS. Presumed heterosexual sex is the reported mode of exposure for an additional 13% of people living with HIV infection, 11% of people living with AIDS, and 12% of people living with HIV/AIDS.
- People of color comprise a higher proportion of people who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex than they do among all people living with HIV infection/AIDS in the state as a whole. While Blacks and Hispanics account for 35% and 37%, respectively, of people living with HIV/AIDS exposed through heterosexual sex, they account for 25% and 24%, respectively, of the overall population living with HIV infection/AIDS in Massachusetts.
- From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of newly diagnosed AIDS cases with heterosexual sex as the primary reported mode of exposure increased from 7% to 16%. (See Figure 8.1)

Figure 8.1 Percent of Reported AIDS Cases where Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex by Year of Diagnosis: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

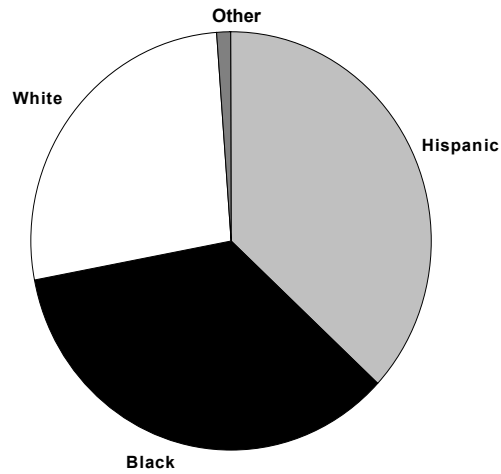
Table 8.1. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Type of Heterosexual Exposure Mode where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex¹: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		TOTAL HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	170	25%	282	31%	452	28%
Female	521	75%	642	69%	1,163	72%
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	194	28%	240	26%	434	27%
Black (non-Hispanic)	196	28%	364	39%	560	35%
Hispanic	286	41%	312	34%	598	37%
Asian / Pacific Islander	2	<1%	7	1%	9	1%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	3	<1%	0	0%	3	<1%
Unknown	10	1%	1	<1%	11	1%
By Heterosexual Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual Sex w/ IDU	332	48%	384	42%	716	44%
Female Sex w/ Bisexual Male	11	2%	13	1%	24	1%
Heterosexual Sex w/ Blood/Blood Product Recipient	6	1%	16	2%	22	1%
Heterosexual Sex w/ Person w/ HIV or AIDS	342	49%	511	55%	853	53%
Total	691		924		1,615	
¹ Includes primary reported exposure of heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, bisexual male, person with a hemophilia/coagulation disorder, transplant or transfusion recipient with documented HIV infection, or a person with documented HIV infection or AIDS where the risk is not specified Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

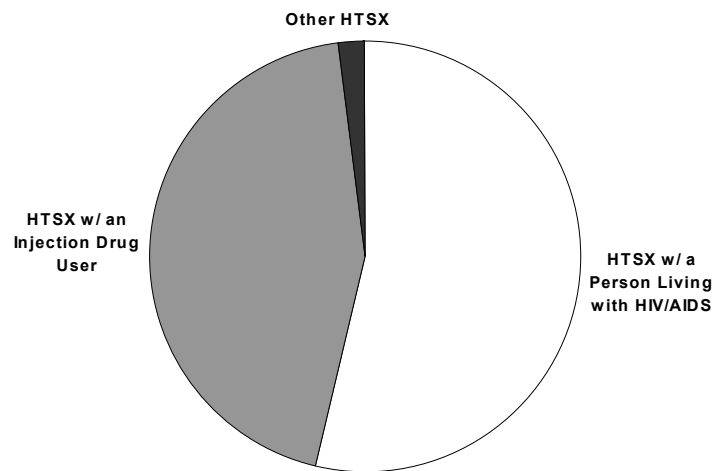
- The majority (72%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS in MA who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex are women. (See Table 8.1)
- Black and Hispanic racial/ethnic groups represent a higher proportion of heterosexually exposed individuals (35% and 37% respectively) than do among Whites (27%). (See Figure 8.2)
- Slightly less than half (44%) of heterosexual exposure was related to injection drug use. (See Figure 8.3)

Figure 8.2 People living with HIV/AIDS by Race/Ethnicity where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Figure 8.3 People living with HIV/AIDS by Type of Heterosexual Exposure Mode: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



HTSX = Heterosexual Sex
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

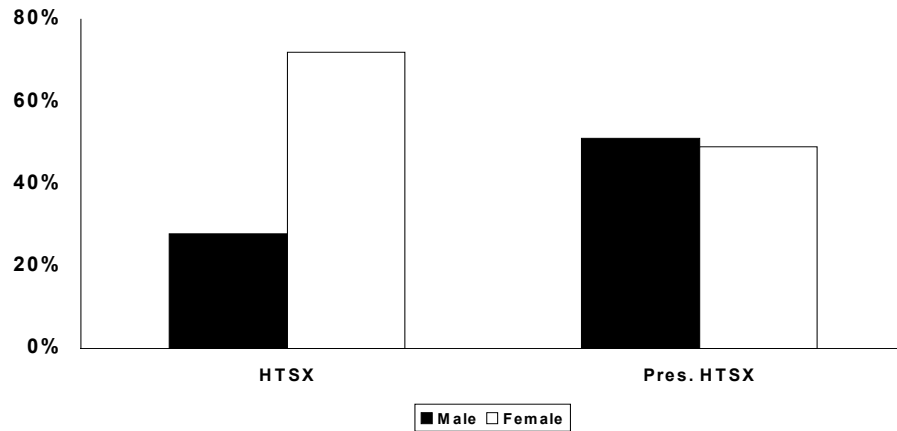
Table 8.2. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Gender and Race/Ethnicity where the Mode of Exposure is Presumed Heterosexual Sex¹: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HIV		AIDS		TOTAL HIV/AIDS	
By Gender:	N	%	N	%	N	%
Male	305	41%	489	59%	794	51%
Female	433	59%	340	41%	773	49%
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	173	23%	194	23%	367	23%
Black (non-Hispanic)	383	52%	450	54%	833	53%
Hispanic/Latino	155	21%	168	20%	323	21%
Asian / Pacific Islander	15	2%	16	2%	31	2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1	<1%	0	0%	1	<1%
Other/Unknown	11	1%	1	<1%	12	1%
Total	738		829		1,567	
1 Includes reported exposure of heterosexual sex with a person of unknown HIV status and risk profile and denial of all other risk factors						
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)						

- Women comprise the majority of people living with HIV infection/AIDS who reported the risk category of their heterosexual partners (72%), while men comprise a slight majority of people whose reported mode of exposure is presumed heterosexual sex. (See Figure 8.4)
- More than half (53%) of people living with HIV infection/AIDS whose reported mode of exposure is presumed heterosexual sex are Black.

Figure 8.4 People living with HIV/AIDS by Gender where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex and Presumed Heterosexual Sex¹: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



¹ Includes reported exposure of heterosexual sex with a person of unknown HIV status and risk profile and denial of all other risk factors; Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Table 8.3. People Living with HIV Infection by Age at HIV Diagnosis and People Living with AIDS by Age at AIDS Diagnosis where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex¹ and Presumed Heterosexual Sex²: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HETEROSEXUAL		PRESUMED HETEROSEXUAL	
By Age at HIV Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%	N	%
Under 13	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³
13 to 19	29	4%	28	4%
20 to 24	87	13%	80	11%
25 to 29	136	20%	169	23%
30 to 34	145	21%	143	19%
35 to 39	131	19%	121	16%
40 to 44	76	11%	89	12%
45 to 49	35	5%	52	7%
50+	52	8%	56	8%
Total	691		738	
Age at AIDS Diagnosis, in Years:	N	%	N	%
Under 13	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³
13 to 19	5	1%	5	1%
20 to 24	56	6%	30	4%
25 to 29	133	14%	111	13%
30 to 34	236	26%	176	21%
35 to 39	209	23%	190	23%
40 to 44	126	14%	133	16%
45 to 49	78	8%	76	9%
50+	81	9%	108	13%
Total	924		829	
<p>1 Includes primary reported exposure of heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, bisexual male, person with a hemophilia/coagulation disorder, transplant or transfusion recipient with documented HIV infection, or a person with documented HIV infection or AIDS where the risk is not specified</p> <p>2 Includes reported exposure of heterosexual sex with a person of unknown HIV status and risk profile and denial of all other risk factors</p> <p>3 Cases diagnosed under age 13 are categorized as pediatric mode of exposure and therefore are not included in the Heterosexual modes of exposure, regardless of their reported behavior.</p> <p>Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)</p>				

- People living with HIV infection and AIDS who were exposed to HIV through either heterosexual sex or presumed heterosexual sex show similar age distributions for the age at first diagnosis.

- A greater proportion of people living with HIV infection were diagnosed with a mode of exposure of heterosexual sex, or presumed heterosexual sex, in their adolescence than among those diagnosed with AIDS.
- The majority of people living with HIV infection who were exposed through heterosexual sex (60%) or through presumed heterosexual sex (58%) were diagnosed with HIV infection between the ages of 25 and 39.

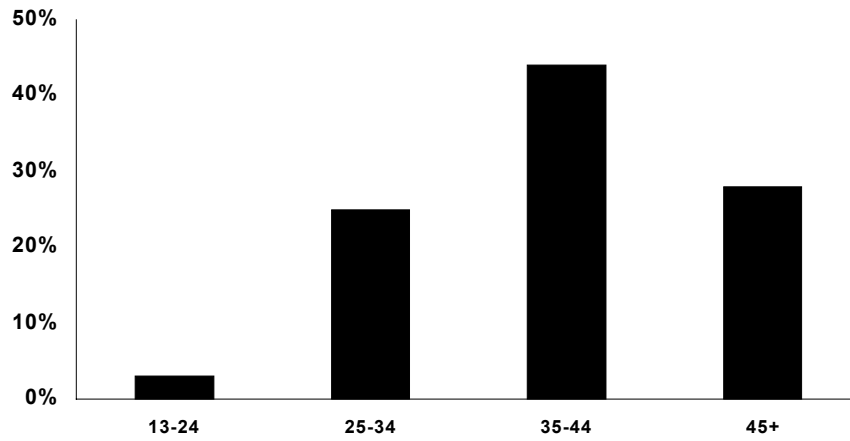
Table 8.4. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS by Current Age where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex¹ and Presumed Heterosexual Sex²: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	HETEROSEXUAL		PRESUMED HETEROSEXUAL	
By Current Age, in Years:	N	%	N	%
Under 13	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³	-- ³
13 to 19	4	<1%	9	1%
20 to 24	43	3%	46	3%
25 to 29	111	7%	131	8%
30 to 34	294	18%	259	17%
35 to 39	372	23%	359	23%
40 to 44	342	21%	319	20%
45 to 49	206	13%	182	12%
50+	243	15%	262	17%
Total	1,615		1,567	
<p>1 Includes primary reported exposure of heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, bisexual male, person with a hemophilia/coagulation disorder, transplant or transfusion recipient with documented HIV infection, or a person with documented HIV infection or AIDS where the risk is not specified</p> <p>2 Includes reported exposure of heterosexual sex with a person of unknown HIV status and risk profile and denial of all other risk factors</p> <p>3 Pediatric HIV infection surveillance is performed through a separate surveillance system, the Pediatric Spectrum of Disease (PSD) Project. HIV cases under age 13 are not included in totals.</p> <p>Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)</p>				

- People living with HIV infection and AIDS who were exposed to HIV through either heterosexual sex or presumed heterosexual sex show similar distributions of current age.
- Of all people living with HIV infection/AIDS, 3% who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex and 4% exposed through presumed heterosexual sex are currently adolescents (13–24 years old). (See Figure 8.5)
- The majority of people living with HIV infection who were exposed through heterosexual sex (62%) or through presumed heterosexual sex (60%) are currently between the ages of 30 and 44. (See Figure 8.5)

**Figure 8.5 People living with HIV/AIDS by Current Age
where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex:
MA, Data as of July 01, 2001**



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

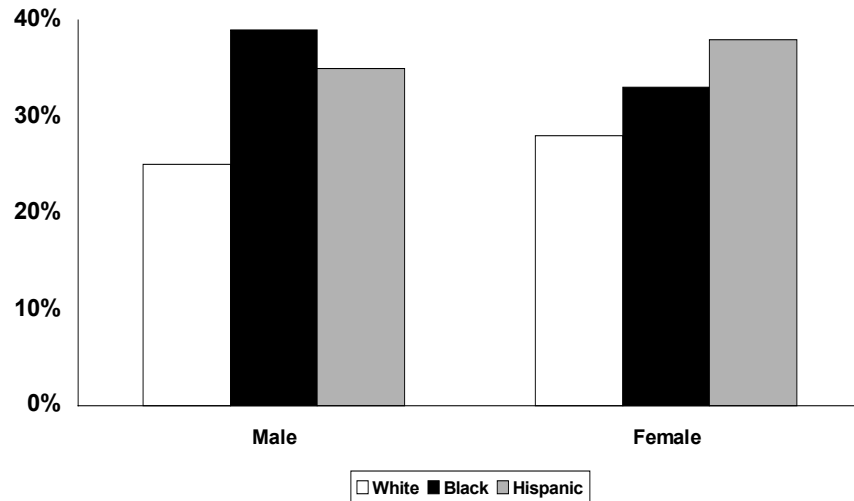
Table 8.5. People Living with HIV Infection and AIDS where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex¹, Gender by Race/Ethnicity and Type of Heterosexual Exposure: MA

Data as of July 1, 2001

	Male		Female	
By Race/Ethnicity:	N	%	N	%
White (non-Hispanic)	113	25%	321	28%
Black (non-Hispanic)	176	39%	384	33%
Hispanic	158	35%	440	38%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	<1%	8	1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0%	3	<1%
Other/Unknown	4	1%	7	1%
By Heterosexual Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%
Heterosexual Sex w/IDU	131	29%	585	50%
Female Sex w/ Bisexual Male	0	0%	24	2%
Heterosexual Sex w/ Blood/Blood Product Recipient	7	2%	15	1%
Heterosexual Sex w/ Person w/ HIV or AIDS	314	69%	539	46%
Total	452		1,163	
¹ Includes primary reported exposure of heterosexual sex with an injection drug user, bisexual male, person with a hemophilia/coagulation disorder, transplant or transfusion recipient with documented HIV infection, or a person with documented HIV infection or AIDS where the risk is not specified Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)				

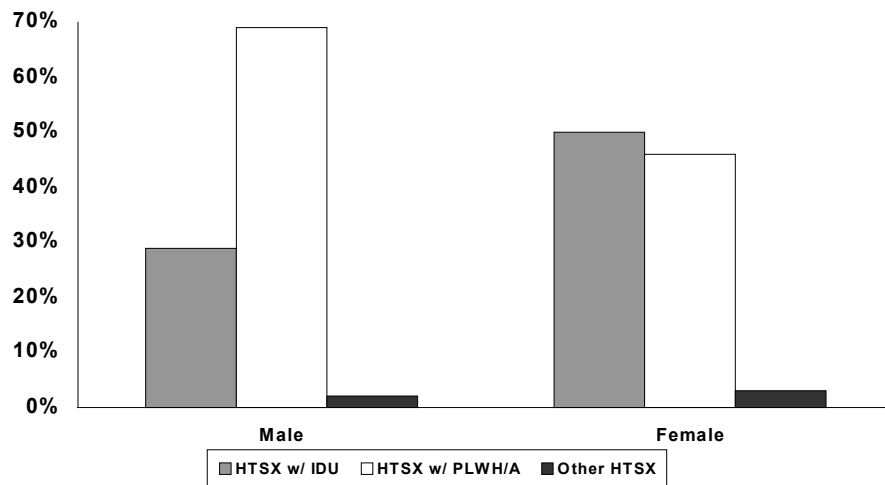
- Among both men and women living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex, the majority are people of color. (See Figure 8.6)
- A larger proportion of women (50%) living with HIV infection/AIDS who were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex had sex with an injection drug user than men (29%). (See Figure 8.7)
- The majority (69%) of men exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex had sex with a person with HIV infection or AIDS, whose risk category was unspecified. (See Figure 8.7)

Figure 8.6 People living with HIV/AIDS where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex, Gender by Race/Ethnicity: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program

Figure 8.7 People living with HIV/AIDS where the Mode of Exposure is Heterosexual Sex, Gender by Mode of Exposure: MA, Data as of July 01, 2001



Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program; HTSX w/ IDU = Heterosexual Sex with an Injection Drug User; HTSX w/ PLWH/A = Heterosexual Sex with a Person Living with HIV/AIDS; Other HTSX = Other Heterosexual Sex

Table 8.6 Type of Heterosexual Exposure Mode by Race/Ethnicity for People living with HIV Infection/AIDS: MA*Data as of July 1, 2001*

	White NH		Black NH		Hispanic		Other/ Unknown	
By Heterosexual Exposure Mode:	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
HTSX w/IDU	203	47%	179	32%	324	54%	10	43%
Female Sex w/ Bisexual Male	10	2%	8	1%	6	1%	0	0%
HTSX w/ Blood/Blood Product Recipient	14	3%	5	1%	3	1%	0	0%
HTSX w/ Person w/ HIV/AIDS	207	48%	368	66%	265	44%	13	57%
Total	434		560		598		23	

HTSX = Heterosexual Sex
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)

- Blacks comprise the largest proportion (66%) of individuals exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with an HIV-infected person of unspecified risk.
- Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, a higher proportion (54%) of Hispanics living with HIV infection/AIDS were exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex with an injection drug user.
- Nearly half (47%) of Whites exposed to HIV through heterosexual sex reported sex with an injection drug user as their primary risk.

II. Seroprevalence Data - Unlinked HIV Seroprevalance program

Table 8.7 HIV and Syphilis Seropositivity at Three Publicly Funded STD Clinics¹ Among People Reporting Heterosexual Risk: MA, 1990 – 2000			
Year:	TOTAL TESTS	% HIV POSITIVE	% SYPHILIS POSITIVE
1990	3,401	3%	7%
1991	3,821	2%	6%
1992	3,376	2%	5%
1993	2,817	2%	4%
1994	2,275	2%	4%
1995	2,193	1%	3%
1996	2,047	2%	3%
1997	1,832	1%	5%
1998	1,866	2%	3%
1999	1,638	2%	2%
2000	1,556	1%	3%
1 Tests performed at 3 selected publicly funded STD clinic sites. (People also test for HIV and Syphilis at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table) Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program (percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)			

- Both HIV and Syphilis seropositivity among heterosexuals declined during the 1990's based reports from three publicly funded STD clinics.

III. Service Utilization - Counseling and Testing Data

Table 8.8 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Age of Client for those reporting Heterosexual Risk: MA, 2000 <i>Calendar Year 2000</i>			
HIV Tests by Gender of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Male	15,533	111	1%
Female	14,935	93	1%
HIV Tests by Race/Ethnicity of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
White (not Hispanic)	14,180	22	<1%
African-American (not Hispanic)	4,744	74	2%
Latino	7,780	68	1%
Asian	588	3	1%
American Indian/Aleutian/Eskimo	106	1	1%
Haitian	576	14	2%
Brazilian	623	7	1%
Portuguese	296	2	1%
Cape Verdean	382	4	1%
Other	0	0	0%
Unknown	1,193	9	<1%
HIV Tests by Age of Client:	TOTAL TESTS	TOTAL POSITIVE RESULTS	PERCENT POSITIVE
Under 13 years	20	1	5% ²
13 to 19 years	3,232	3	<1%
20 to 24 years	8,149	23	<1%
25 to 29 years	5,526	23	<1%
30 to 34 years	4,333	34	1%
35 to 39 years	3,350	49	2%
40 to 44 years	2,373	37	2%
45 to 49 years	1,437	20	1%
50+ years	1,451	11	1%
Unknown	597	3	1%
Total	30,468	204	
1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)			
2 Caution should be used in interpreting percentages with both a small numerator and denominator			
Data Source: MDPH HIV/AIDS Bureau Counseling and Testing Program			

- In 2000, nearly equal numbers of males and females reported heterosexual sex as their mode of exposure when they sought testing for HIV at publicly funded Counseling and Testing (C&T) sites.
- The majority of those tested were White non-Hispanic (14,180) followed by Latinos (7,780) and African-Americans (4,744).
- More people reporting heterosexual risk were tested for HIV in their 20s (20-29) than in any other age category. There were more people testing positive in the 35 to 44 age categories.

Table 8.9 Number and Percent of Positive HIV Tests¹ by Year of Test for Heterosexual Clients: MA, 1992-2000

HIV Tests by Year of Test:	Total Tests	Total Positive Results	Percent Positive
1992	19,666	145	1%
1993	22,547	180	1%
1994	26,274	171	1%
1995	30,353	219	1%
1996	32,556	211	1%
1997	29,022	208	1%
1998	28,453	174	1%
1999	29,099	184	1%
2000	30,676	204	1%
Total	248,646	1,696	

1 Tests performed at publicly funded counseling and testing sites. (People also test for HIV at non-publicly funded sites for whom data are not represented in this table)

- The number of people who were tested for HIV at publicly funded Counseling and Testing sites and reported heterosexual sex as their exposure mode increased by 12,890 from 1992 to 1996 and has remained fairly stable through 2000.
- The percent of people testing positive as a result of a heterosexual sex exposure has been one percent each year from 1992 to through 2000.

